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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT



### THE BOSTON MEETINGS

THE meetings in Boston of both national societies are to be held in the Park Street Church, one of the most interesting buildings, historically, in New England.

The programme of the Associated Alumnae is given very fully in the official department. This is its second meeting in Boston.

It is many long years since the Superintendents of Training Schools have held a meeting in that city. The second annual meeting was held there with Miss Richards, who was then in the prime of life and did very active work, as its president, and while we have perhaps heard less of Boston, educationally, than of some of the other nursing centres, and while the opposition to state registration from what we might call the broader educational interests was very bitter, there has been no place where the education of the nurse for her strictly professional duties has been more progressive. Members who can take the time to study equipment and methods in this section of the country will find much to carry away with them to their advantage.

To the women of the Pacific Slope and the south and west, who are visiting New England for the first time, not only in the city of Boston itself, but in the suburbs, there are many points which should be visited. The Conference of Charities comes soon after the nursing conventions, and those who can attend both, may well employ the time between in visiting Plymouth, Lexington, Concord, Harvard College, and in taking the beautiful trolley rides in every direction,—along the shore to Nahant, old Salem, Gloucester, and some of the historical towns in that direction, or on the other side of the city through the parks to the

Blue Hill section. Those who can change their return route might include the beautiful ocean resort of Newport.

Those who visit the Massachusetts General Hospital should make it a point to see the centre building from the hospital garden, as it is one of those designed by Bulfinch and of great beauty.

#### THE SUPERINTENDENTS' MEETINGS

While we are not able to publish officially the full programme, from private advices we can say that the literary portions of the programme promise to be of great value to the teaching body.

The opening prayer will be made by the pastor of the Park Street Church, Rev. A. Z. Conrad; the address of welcome, which will be along educational lines, by Dr. David Sneddin, State Commissioner of Education of Massachusetts.

Among the papers are "Some Impressions of the Present Situation in Nursing," by Isabel McIsaac, interstate secretary, who needs no introduction; "Some Problems Arising in Affiliation between Training Schools," by Clara D. Noyes, a graduate of Johns Hopkins, for many years superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford, now at the head of the nursing service of Bellevue and Allied Hospitals, where such extensive affiliations are being carried on; "How to Promote a Larger Social Life in the Training School," by Jessie E. Catton, graduate of the Boston City Hospital, and of the course at Teachers College, now superintendent of nurses at the Springfield Hospital, Springfield, Mass.; "What Are the Great Demands in Post-Graduate Work?" by Julia E. Stimson, in charge of the Harlem Hospital, New York City; "Co-operation of Educational Institutions with Schools for Nurses," by Sarah L. Arnold, Dean of Simmons College, with which the training school of the Massachusetts General Hospital became affiliated during Miss Dolliver's administration for special preliminary work.

There is to be ample time for discussion of all these papers and also of the reports of the special committees, among which are: "How to Approach Women's Colleges," "Red Cross Work in the States," "The Advantages of the Graduate and of the Undergraduate Head Nurse," "Advisability of Student Government in the Nurses' Training Schools." A special effort is to be made this year to obtain practical results from the work of these committees. For this reason, the papers are few in number that there may be thorough discussion, especially of the reports referred to.

## MISUSE OF THE RED CROSS EMBLEM

It was a long period of years between the Treaty of Geneva with its adoption of the Red Cross on a white ground as its emblem and the effectual organization of Red Cross work in the United States. In the meantime, this symbol had come to mean, in the minds of the multitude, anything connected with health or medicine, and had been seized upon by manufacturers, by hospitals, by schools of various kinds, to call attention to their work, in advertising. After the readjustment of the American National Red Cross, the use of its symbol by other than those connected with this association was made illegal, but it was found that firms having already patented it, as a part of their advertising, could not be interfered with. All hospitals, schools and organizations were requested to discontinue its use, and most of them have done so, that the employment of the emblem may be confined to its original purpose,—the absolute neutrality of medical and nursing service at time of war and disaster.

When we consider the object of the Red Cross, an organization to provide relief in time of national or international calamity,—war, pestilence, fire, flood, famine, etc.,—one cannot feel respect for those organizations which continue to use its symbol for commercial purposes, a practice which is misleading the general public. An example of this is its continued use by some short-course and correspondence schools.

From Miss Delano we learn that a number of nurses have applied for admission to the "Philadelphia School for Nurses," thinking its course would prepare them for service in the National Red Cross. Through her courtesy we publish a letter on this subject from Miss Boardman, one of the prominent and active members of the Central Nursing Service Committee, which shows that graduates from such courses will not be recognized by the national association.

"In reply to enquiries which are occasionally received concerning the status of various schools for nurses, particularly one in Philadelphia known as 'The Philadelphia School for Nurses,' let me say it is the aim of the American Red Cross to reach the highest state of efficiency in all departments of its work. Of these departments, none is of greater importance than that of its nursing service. The strict requirements for enrollment in this service are of such a nature as to guarantee a corps of nurses who have received at least a two years' course of training in acceptable hospitals, and whose character and ability have been thoroughly endorsed by competent judges. Nurses who, meeting these

requirements, have been enrolled in the American Red Cross Nursing Service, become available for active duty under call of the Medical Service of the United States War and Navy Departments. At such a time the nurses required in addition to those of the regular service would be obtained through the nursing service of the American Red Cross, which forms the actual reserve in time of war for these Medical Departments.

"Because of the fact that this school in Philadelphia, which gives various courses, one consisting of a ten weeks' course, another of a correspondence course, etc., gives the women who take these courses a Red Cross pin, and in certain cases what is called 'The Order of the International Red Cross' (an order which does not exist) some confusion has arisen. The nurses of this school and others of a like nature are not eligible to the nursing service of the American Red Cross, as they do not meet the requirements nor are they up to its standards. Neither are they eligible to the nursing service of the Army or Navy.

"For these reasons it is important that the graduates of this school should not be confused with those of the American Red Cross Nursing Service, a service to which it is an honor to belong and whose members represent the highest standard of ability and efficiency of the nursing profession of our country.

"Women are therefore cautioned against entering this school with the idea that it will qualify them in any way for the nursing service of the American Red Cross. The school has no connection with the American Red Cross nor does it receive any authority from this national organization for the use of the insignia."

#### MORAL STATUS OF RED CROSS NURSES

While certain educational requirements have been insisted upon for applicants for the Red Cross Nursing Service, even more attention is being given to the personal and moral qualifications. Red Cross service means always emergency conditions, with the possibility of a woman's working alone under very unusual and unprotected surroundings. For this reason the applicant must be not less than 25 years of age, and must have a record of such exemplary conduct that there can be no question of her ability to take care of herself in such situations without discredit to herself or to the service. Every precaution is being taken to exclude from the service anyone whose conduct has been doubtful, no matter how excellent her technical skill may be. Undignified behavior,

lack of discretion, and errors in judgment may be as disastrous to the service as actual moral delinquency. The responsibility of the selection of nurses for this service having been placed on the shoulders of the great nursing body, the enforcement of these requirements cannot be too rigidly carried out.

#### HIPPOCRATIC OATH AND NIGHTINGALE PLEDGE

THIS is the time of year when most schools for nurses are holding commencement exercises, and the voice of the orator is heard in the land. It is also the time when the JOURNAL office is besieged with requests for copies of the Hippocratic Oath or the Nightingale Pledge. We have published both in our pages in past years, but give them once more that they may be available this year for those who wish to use them. Superintendents of nurses who do not keep their JOURNALS might do well to cut out and keep these copies and so have them available if needed.

The two should not be confused. The Hippocratic Oath in its original form dates back several hundred years before the Christian era, and was used in Greece as an oath by physicians about to begin practice. A modified form is used in some medical colleges to the present day, and an adaptation of this modified form for nurses was introduced by Mrs. Cadwallader Jones as a part of the commencement exercises of the New York City Training School for Nurses, some years ago, and has been used by other schools since.

We have been unable as yet to trace the origin of the Nightingale Pledge or to find out why it has Miss Nightingale's name. It appears in the text-book on nursing written by Miss Maxwell and Miss Pope, but Miss Maxwell does not know its history. It should not be confused with the Hippocratic Oath, for its form is quite different, as will be seen by comparing the two.

#### HIPPOCRATIC OATH FOR NURSES

You do solemnly swear, each one by whatever she holds most sacred,  
That you will be loyal to the physicians under whom you shall serve,  
as a good soldier is loyal to his officers;

That you will be just and generous to all worthy members of your profession, aiding them when it shall be in your power so to do;

That you will lead your lives and practise your profession in uprightness and honor;

That into whatsoever house you shall enter, it shall be for the good

of the sick to the utmost of your power, and that you will hold yourself aloof from all temptation ;

That whatsoever you shall see or hear of the lives of men and women, whether they be your patients or members of their households, you will keep inviolably secret, whether you are in other households or among your own friends.

If you accept these obligations, let each one bow the head in sign of acquiescence.

And now, if you shall be true to your word, may prosperity and good repute be ever yours ; the opposite, if you shall prove yourselves foresworn.

#### NIGHTINGALE PLEDGE

I solemnly pledge myself before God, and in the presence of this assembly, to pass my life in purity and to practise my profession faithfully. I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug. I will do all in my power to elevate the standard of my profession, and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping, and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my calling. With loyalty will I endeavor to aid the physician in his work and devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care.

#### THE FIRE AT ALBANY

THE fire which occurred in the capitol at Albany, late in March, destroyed that part of the building in which the Education Department was located, and the state library, in a corner of which Miss Goodrich had her office and headquarters. All of the training-school records, covering Miss Alline's and Miss Goodrich's inspections, were destroyed, and probably all of the records of the registration department, in which the nursing files were kept. Fortunately there are duplicates of the most important part of these in the hands of Miss Hitchcock, who has been secretary of the Board of Nurse Examiners since the beginning, and who has kept a complete file of all certificates signed, of all marks for examinations, and of each question which has been submitted by the Board, the names and addresses of all those registered under the waiver, and the names, but not the addresses, of all those registered under the full examination.

The importance of carefully kept records in duplicate of the work of the Board of Examiners and the Education Department, is hereby

demonstrated, for without Miss Hitchcock's files, there would be practically nothing to show for all this constructive period of state registration in New York. We understand that copies of these records are to be made for the Education Department.

#### STARTLING FACTS FROM CHICAGO'S VICE COMMISSION

CHICAGO'S Vice Commission, appointed last summer, reported on April 6, as a result of its investigation, that Chicago pays a tribute each year of 5000 souls and \$15,000,000 as a tribute to vice. Other large cities in the country are known to be as bad or worse. The low wages paid to young girls in industrial pursuits is given as an underlying cause for these conditions. At about the same time, telegraph reports of a fire in the licensed portion of Tokio, showed that 6000 immoral women were there rendered homeless.

Nurses know better than most women do what the results of immoral living are. They see its victims in hospitals and private homes, women made invalids or having to undergo operations made necessary by infection from their own husbands, and ignorant as to the cause of the disease or its character; children suffering from ailments which can never be wholly cured, pitiful little abandoned sickly babies, hundreds of needlessly blind children, a burden to themselves and to the public which must help care for them.

We are almost helpless in this great crusade by ourselves, but everywhere there is an awakening of the conscience of the people, societies for the suppression of vice are being formed, and wherever these are found there should nurses be among the most active and useful members. Only our influence is available as a weapon as yet, in most places, but that should be used to the utmost.

#### NIGHTINGALE POST CARDS

THE Illinois nurses are still selling post cards for the benefit of the fund for a shack for tuberculosis cases among nurses (not Illinois nurses, alone, but all nurses). Nurses all over the country have been interested and have helped, but 11,000 remain to be sold, and it is suggested that as most nurses must be pretty well supplied, they might interest members of the public in buying them. That some have done so, is shown by the record of the work of one private duty nurse who sent \$10 on her own account, and \$50 from patients whom she had interested. Last year at the New York meetings, the Illinois nurses



generously divided the profits from the cards with the JOURNAL Purchase Fund, and enough were sold to buy one share of JOURNAL stock. The latest report is as follows:

Thirty-six thousand post cards were made, and so far the cash returns have been \$1057; turned over to JOURNAL Purchase Fund, \$107; cost of cards, \$285; balance on hand for the shack, \$665. This is an enterprise to which we should all give helping hands. Cards in quantities may be ordered from officers of the Illinois State Association.

#### PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION

WE are informed that Vermont, Tennessee and Idaho have obtained bills for state registration. We shall publish the text of these bills with that of Oregon when the legislative season has closed for the year. As we go to press the contest in Wisconsin and New Jersey is still on.

#### A SPECIAL REQUEST

A GREAT effort will be made to have the June issue of the JOURNAL ready in time for the Boston meetings. Will all the regular contributors send their material several days earlier than usual and so help make this possible?